

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 533
By Cohen

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Emily Roberta Smith Jorgensen.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Emily Roberta Smith Jorgensen of Memphis; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Jorgensen was an exemplary public artist and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for her fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, Emily Jorgensen was born in Nashville on October 1, 1923, to Buford and Clara Staengle Smith; and

WHEREAS, after attending Isaac Litton Elementary School and East High School, she graduated from Peabody Demonstration School in Nashville and the Pratt Institute of Design in Brooklyn, New York; she then returned to Nashville in 1972; and

WHEREAS, Emily Jorgensen served with acumen and alacrity as an author, illustrator, sculptor, painter, photographer, and community activist, in which pursuits she earned the respect of her colleagues and her community for the exemplary quality of her work; and

WHEREAS, a member and assistant regent of the Daughters of the American Revolution, and proudly connected to the McNairys of McNairy County, Mrs. Jorgensen wrote and illustrated two children's books about Tennessee history, *The Good Boat Adventure – the Remarkable Settling of Nashville* and *The Cherokees*; and

WHEREAS, Emily Jorgensen also greatly enjoyed capturing the essence of a bygone era with her camera; a collection of her remarkable and captivating photographs of historic sites in Nashville is expected to become part of the archives at the Tennessee State Museum; and

WHEREAS, a true patriot, Mrs. Jorgensen welded airplane wings for a short time during World War II; and

WHEREAS, a highly respected member of her community, Mrs. Jorgensen's commitment to public service included taking an active role in the League of Women Voters and writing frequent three-star letters to the editor of the newspaper; most recently, she dedicated her time as an independent national lobbyist for war strategy reform; and,

WHEREAS, in 1982, Emily Jorgensen and her husband, Richard, were recognized by the Legislature of Tennessee with a resolution honoring their work as volunteers in several prison ministries; and

WHEREAS, Emily Jorgensen was an active and devout member of the First Seventh-Day Adventist Church in Nashville, which she served faithfully for many years; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Jorgensen was also deeply devoted to her family, and she always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, by her passing, Emily Jorgensen is reunited with her beloved husband, educator Richard L. Jorgensen; and

WHEREAS, she is survived by her two daughters, Lisa K. Jorgensen and Suzanne J. Burton; foster son, Richard Hickey; god-daughter, Sarah Ashitey; and six grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Emily Jorgensen leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all her chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Emily Roberta Smith Jorgensen, beloved artist and activist, reflecting fondly upon her impeccable character and her stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family and many devoted friends of Emily Roberta Smith Jorgensen.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.